



## PAN AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE

*A civil Society Coalition on Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Africa*

***Africa Regional Consultation with Major Groups and Stakeholders of Civil Society held in conjunction with the Fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), 7-9th September 2012, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.***

### ***African Major Groups and Stakeholders' Statement to AMCEN 14***

1. Representatives of African Major Groups and Stakeholders met from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in Arusha, Tanzania and discussed the African perspective on the implementation of the outcomes of Rio+20, the Preparations for the eighteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and AMCEN organisational matters.
2. We identify the following as overarching priority areas of intervention to achieve sustainable development and address adverse Climate Change in Africa: i) Poverty eradication, ii) Access to quality Education for All, iii) Sustainable agriculture and food security, iv) Gender responsiveness, v) Adaptation, vi) Disaster preparedness and management, vii) Resource mobilization and management, and viii) Protection of environment and ecosystems.

We hereby recommend:

### **Part 1. Climate Change and COP 18 of the UNFCCC**

#### **Climate change finance**

3. We urge African ministers to support the need for grants in the form of new, predictable and additional public finance by setting up national funds. This will minimize foreign aid dependence and send a strong signal against climate loans contracted by vulnerable African countries to address climate change.

#### **Climate change negotiations**

4. We are gravely concerned about the slow progress and low level of ambition in the on-going international climate change dialogue process. and particularly agreeing on contentious issues such as second commitment period of protocol, Ad Hoc Working Group on Durban Platform and the where to get the US\$100 Billion for the period 2012 – 2020. We further urge you to put pressure on Annex I countries in mitigation to demonstrate their commitment.
5. We ask governments to avail adequate resources to our negotiators in the UNFCCC process so as to eliminate our dependence on foreign aid and follow negotiations in a consistent manner.
6. We urge African Ministers to call for substantial scaled-up provision of climate finance at COP18, particularly to the Green Climate Fund for disbursements, with a view to address urgent adaptation needs of developing countries. These funds must be new, additional, predictable and

long-term, disbursed in the form of grants. To complement of funds, innovative financing mechanisms – such as global levy on shipping with no net impact on developing countries or financial transaction taxes in developed countries as well as special drawing rights - could significantly scale-up developed countries budgetary contributions to finance climate change.

7. We urge African governments to focus climate change negotiations not only on scientific knowledge but also on Justice and fundamental rights of vulnerable groups such as women, smallholder farmers, youth, the physically challenged and indigenous peoples.
8. We acknowledge the efforts being done by our governments to mainstream climate change in national sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies and plans, that will ensure that as we move towards a low-carbon growth future, we avoid growth models by industrialised countries that have resulted into the current situation.
9. We urge the governments to entrench the principles of gender equality and equity in any emerging climate change agreement.
10. We urge the African group to follow up on financing commitments and ensure that there is a monitoring framework to make Annex I countries accountable for their commitments.

## **Climate Change Governance**

11. We urge the government to engage development issues that focuses on sustainability while addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation.
12. We urge AMCEN to operationalize the inter agency technical committee to provide CSOs with an opportunity to contribute to the AMCEN process.
13. We urge the African group, AMCEN and CAHOSSOC, to work harmoniously to realize a unified African Position.
14. There is a need to acknowledge, integrate and promote indigenous knowledge with science in addressing climate change and natural resources management.
15. We urge the government for support to enable youth to engage in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects that respond to climate change within their communities.

## **Part 2. African perspective on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development**

16. We urge governments to develop strong policies and institutional frameworks that will provide oversight roles and ensure accountability, transparency and integrity in budget spending which will strengthen Africa's capacity to achieve sustainable development.

## **Citizen Participation and Information**

17. We urge African ministers to implement Principle 10 of Rio declaration on access to information, public participation and access to justice on decision making. AMCEN should initiate a programme on the adoption of principle 10 related laws and regulations in the member countries.
18. We call for balanced representation from Africa that will include CSOs and allow for their full participation in the different working groups in shaping the Sustainable Development Goals.
19. We are concern about the timeline for civil societies' participation in the post-2015 process considering the scare resources that characterise most CSOs.

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

20. Africa should adopt a bottom-up approach in designing the sustainable development goals that are realistic, measurable and reportable. We urge African governments to initiate support national consultation processes that are inclusive encouraging and assuring the participation of major groups (such as youth, indigenous, women, industry).
21. We call for renewed commitment for the development of clear cut timelines for implementation of agreed outcomes and the establishment of National Sustainable Development Councils as proposed in Rio 1992.
22. We urge AMCEN to define the concept of green economy in the context of Africa as they committed to do in their last session.
23. We call on the governments to encourage and ensure youth participation in the post 2015 framework consultation process.

## **Part 3. African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the context of the African Union institutional structure**

24. We call on Ministers of Environment to institute a monitoring and review framework to ensure follow-up of decisions and declarations made at various sessions of AMCEN.
25. We believe that the strengthened UNEP, the only UN agency in developing countries, could play a major role in Africa's sustainable development and environmental consciousness. The location of the AMCEN Secretariat at UNEP Regional Office for Africa should thus be seen as a strategic positioning and should be supported by all African stakeholders. We express our gratitude to the UNEP Regional Office for Africa for the facilitative role they continue to provide to us, and urge the African Ministers to strengthen AMCEN to deliver on its mandate.
26. We consider that a specific window for environment should be ensured in the African Union Commission structure and AMCEN should be retained there rather than under Agriculture & Rural economy and.

## **Part 4. Cross-cutting Issues**

We have also identified a number of cross cutting issues:

### **Research**

27. We urge Ministers of environment to map out necessities and consequently collect, package and manage environmental data at national and regional level in line with the Eye on Earth Summit in Abu Dhabi in 2011.

### **Technology Transfer and Assessment**

28. We call African governments to be aware of the precautionary principle and the decisions made at Rio, to move towards building regional and national capacities and mechanisms for Technology assessment and implementation. We urge governments to offset the unintended consequences of the deployment of new and emerging technologies and to transfer appropriate, clean and environmentally sound technologies.

### **Community-based Projects**

29. We ask governments to engage with active Community Based Organizations through the local, regional and national government. They should allocate specific budget for sustainable development and climate change activities and mainstream it in other sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, wildlife and health. In this regard it worth to mention the Rwandan policy as a best-practice; it ensures that any community based project is approved by the local government, who must look for ways of engagement, before its implementation.

30. Ongoing community-based projects that improve agriculture practices, water, land and forest management, implement alternative energies or diversify livelihoods, among others, not only help communities adapting to climate change but also achieving sustainable development. We urge ministers of environment to look for best practices in this regard in their countries and the continent and scale them up.

Strengthening our good will to contribute to the achievement of equitable and pro-poor responses to climate change for sustainable development in the African Continent we thank the AMCEN representatives in advance and we highlight that we remain at their disposal for further collaboration.